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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/000,065	12/04/2001	Yoshiaki Kinoshita	Q67493	9595

7590 09/07/2005

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EXAMINER	
SAJOUS, WESNER	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2676	

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/000,065	KINOSHITA, YOSHIAKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Wesner Sajous	2676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 June 2005* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-7* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-7* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Remark

This communication is responsive to the amendment and response dated June 8, 2005. Claims 1-7 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

1. The Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground of rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dermer (US Pat. 5668931) in view of Snyder et al. (US 6252608).

Considering claim 1, Dermer, at fig. 1, discloses a trapping area creating method comprises dividing an image (e.g., separation of color images via step 128 of fig. 1) [represented in form of polygons to which colors are applied into a plurality of image areas] by a straight line passing through at least one vertex of the polygons (*see figs. 2, 7 and figs 17-20, and col. 4, lines 50-69, cols. 6, lines 32-65, and col. 11, lines 24-67, wherein the gaps in between the lines or regions 1 & 2 represent the plurality of image*

areas); determining if a trapping should be applied to each pair of image areas adjacent to one another in at least one direction of two predetermined directions (*e.g., horizontal or vertical directions, see col. 8, line 45 to col. 10, line 5, wherein the determining step is as performed by the functions of items 122 and 124/items 450 and 440 of fig. 4); and* creating a ban-shaped trapping area extending along a boundary of two image areas comprising a pair of image areas determined as being suitable for trapping (*as depicted by figs. 14-15. See also figs. 3{a-b}, and col. 10, lines 6-30, wherein the bans-shaped trapping areas creating step correspond to map trapping generator and is characterized by the function of items 430 and 450 of fig. 5*).

Dermer fails to teach an image composed of polygons is decomposed into a plurality of smaller image areas, wherein the image areas are designated by the straight lines passing through the vertices of the polygons and the boundaries of the divided polygons.

Snyder discloses an image composed of polygons is decomposed into a plurality of smaller image areas (e.g., divide an object geometry into chunks, see col. 14, lines 37-40, and lines 49-59, and col. 31, lines 12-15), wherein the image areas are designated by the straight lines passing through the vertices of the polygons and the boundaries of the divided polygons. See fig. 16. It is to be understood that since the vertices of the polygon are included in the chunks when the polygons overlap the edge(s) of the chunks (see lines 49-59 of col. 14), it is obvious for the chunk image areas be designated and represented by straight lines passing through the vertices of the polygons and the boundaries of the divided polygons. For the chunks are made of

polygons of interconnected edges or vertices. Furthermore, it should be understood by those of artisan skilled in the art that a chunk of polygons define meshes that represent a number of span lines for each section that are processed based on the number of vertex point within a section region. This being the case, the interconnected polygons with vertices encompass image areas that are designated by the straight lines passing through the vertices of the polygons and their boundaries.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the features of Dermer to include the dividing of image into a plurality of image areas by the straight lines passing through the vertices of the polygons and the boundaries of the divided polygons in the same conventional manner as taught by Snyder, see fig. 16, so that object's geometry of these chunks can be separately rendered, hence producing a high-quality image. See Snyder's col. 31, lines 12-15.

Re claim 2, Dermer, at figs. 2 and 7, discloses dividing the image uses straight lines extending in the same directions as the two predetermined directions passing through the vertexes of the polygon, and sides of the polygon (*see figs. 2, 7 and figs 17-20, wherein the divided image corresponds to separated color images 200, see fig. 2).*

Re claim 3, Dermer discloses the equivalence for the determination uses, as the two predetermined directions, an upper and lower direction and a right and left direction of the image (as depicted in figs. 17-20). See col. 12, lines 25-60, and col. 14, line 44 to col. 15, line 67

Re claim 4, Dermer, at figs. 18-19, depicts the equivalence for the determination is based on a difference between colors of two image areas constituting the pair of image areas. See col. 9, lines 45-55.

As per claim 5, Dermer, at fig. 5, depicts the equivalence for performing the creation of the trapping area creates, as the trapping area, an area interposed between a line (as depicted in fig. 12) constituting the boundary and a line obtained when the line (first occurring) is subjected to a parallel translation.

Claim 6 is an apparatus claim reciting the method of claim 1; it is, therefore, rejected under the same rationale as claim 1.

Claim 7 is a computer program performing the method of claim 1; it is, therefore, rejected under the same rationale as claim 1.

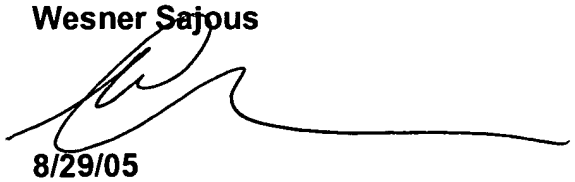
Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sajous Wesner whose telephone number is 571-272-7791. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays thru Fridays between 10:30 and 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wesner Sajous



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